

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 27
By Borchert

A RESOLUTION to honor the Town of Big Sandy, Tennessee on
its centennial celebration.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause in its deliberations to
join with the citizens of the cities and counties that comprise this great state in celebrating
joyous and historic occasions; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of Big Sandy are most assuredly deserving of special
recognition, as they will soon commemorate the city's centennial; and

WHEREAS, in 1820, settlers first arrived on this natural peninsula, surrounded by the
Big Sandy and Tennessee Rivers, and found it teeming with timber, game, salt and fresh water;
and

WHEREAS, Daniel Buchanan, one of these pioneer settlers, filed for the first 160 acre
tract of land on November 29, 1820; Dennis, Willis and Abel Rushing established a settlement in
the Rushing Creek area; and

WHEREAS, Ramble Creek was settled by Nicholas and Lewis Brewer, while Isham
Jones, Malcom McKenzie and Alexander McRae settled Sugar Creek; and

WHEREAS, initiating commercial activity in the area, Zachariah Wyatt built and operated a grist mill on the Big Sandy River, near the edge of the settlement, and Colonel Daniel Mason, a soldier in the Revolutionary War, established a successful ferry and mercantile business on Point Mason; and

WHEREAS, due to the resourceful enterprise of Dr. Elijah Alsup, Big Sandy began to grow and prosper further in the early 1860s; Dr. Alsup owned land near the Memphis and Ohio Railroad, where he built a refueling station and a water tank and fuel yard, thus paving the way for Big Sandy's growth into a thriving and bustling railroad town; and

WHEREAS, at one time the town could boast of having a canning factory, a pencil factory, a shoe factory, a blacksmith's shop, a cotton gin, a bank, a funeral home, a dentist and several other retail stores within her borders; and

WHEREAS, while the decline of rail transport and the subsequent removal of the tracks altered the town dramatically, the citizens of Big Sandy refused to disregard their extraordinary history, and when, in 1944, the Tennessee Valley Authority sought to relocate the original settlement, city leaders demanded that the site be maintained and a levee be constructed around the town to protect these precious structures, symbols of the determination and ingenuity that are central to the city's identity; and

WHEREAS, the municipal government of Big Sandy has taken great pains to offer its citizens amenities in accordance with the progress of the years: telephone service was implemented in 1908, an electric power supply began servicing the city in 1927, a city water system was installed in 1953 (followed by a sewage treatment plant in 1976), the roads were paved in 1976 and in 1978, the volunteer fire department was established; and

WHEREAS, Big Sandy was incorporated in 1903, and the first election was held on March 25 of that year, with Dr. James M. Moses being elected Big Sandy's first mayor; and

WHEREAS, small communities, such as Baker's Chapel, Crooked Creek, Danville, Faxon, Granny's Branch, Lick Creek, Point Mason, Rushing's Creek and Sulphur Creek, have

retained their distinct identities although they have been incorporated into the Town of Big Sandy; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Big Sandy is truly one of the great municipalities in Tennessee and has been a catalyst for positive change in our state and nation throughout its illustrious existence; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this legislative body should honor this fine municipality and her citizenry as they commemorate this significant milestone in their historic existence; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we hereby honor and congratulate the citizens of the Town of Big Sandy upon the celebration of their centennial.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.